(d) what was the quantity distributed freely under this programme during last three years, year-wise;

(e) what is the percentage of pregnant women and children suffering from Iron deficiency;

(f) names of other drugs used for Maternal and Child Health Programme and the number of them are freely distributed; and

(g) what is the criteria under which Government excluded Iron preparations for recommendation under price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sanction order for expenditure for procurement of different forms of Iron preparation during last three years alongwith the quantity is in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 78].

(d) The quantity distributed free under the programme during last three years is in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 79].

(e) Country-wide precise estimate of percentage of pregnant women and children suffering from Iron deficiency is not available.

(f) The other drug used under Maternal and Child Health Programme is Vit. 'A' under the scheme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vit. 'A' deficiency. This is distributed free.

(g) The drugs are now being evaluated for price control recommendations to the Deptt. of Chemicals.

Free distribution of Vitamin A under National Health Programme

1948. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 4 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vitamin A is used for control of blindness;

(b) whether it is also fact that Vitamin A in different forms is used commonly for control of blindness;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 95 per cent of Vitamin A is used in different forms for the control of this disease;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are distributing free Vitamin A in finished form under National Health Programme; and

(e) if so, what was the quantity of Vitamin A purchased by Government in different forms during last three years, year-wise for free distribution under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vit. 'A' deficiency concentrated solution of synthetic Vit. 'A' in arachis oil containing one lakh international unit in 1 ml. is used.

(c) Government do not have precise information on this.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The quantity of Vit. 'A' purchased during the last 3 years are as follows:—

1985-86—14.00 lakhs bottles containing 50 doses per bottle.

1986-87—10.50 lakh bottles containing 50 doses per bottle.

1987-88—9.7 lakh bottles containing 50 doses per bottle.